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**HIGHLIGHTS:**

*Farm Numbers/Land in Farms*  
*Farm Labor*  
*Livestock Slaughter*  
*U.S. Cold Storage*

*1999 Milk Production*  
*U.S. Egg Production*  
*Agricultural Prices*  
*Honey Production*  
*U.S. Cattle on Feed*

## Farm Numbers & Land in Farms

**UTAH:** The number of farms in 1999 is estimated at 15,500, an increase of 500 from 1998. Land in farms is estimated at 11.6 million acres, the same as 1998. The average farm size, at 748 acres, was 25 acres less than 1998.

**UNITED STATES:** The number of farms in 1999 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1998. The increase in farm numbers can be attributed to the continued rise in the number of small farms. Total land in farms, at 947.3 million acres, was down 0.7 percent or 6.2 million acres from last year. This decline in land in farms continues the historical trend of less land in farms. The average farm size decreased 3 acres from 1998 to 432 acres.

## Farm Labor

**MOUNTAIN REGION II** (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of January 9-15, 2000 there were 19,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. Hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$8.09, down 18 cents from January 1999 and 3 cents lower than the national average. Field workers received \$7.46 per hour on average, and livestock workers received \$7.60 per hour. Field workers hourly wages were up 67 cents from October 1999 and up 17 cents from January 1999. Livestock workers hourly wages were up 60 cents from October 1999 and up 24 cents from January 1999.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3 percent from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers.

Migrant workers accounted for 7.3 percent of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$7.64 per hour compared with \$7.31 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 18 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.1 hours a year ago.

## Livestock Slaughter

**UTAH:** Commercial red meat production totaled 37.9 million pounds in January 2000, down 3.8 percent from January 1999, but up 0.8 percent from December 1999.

**UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production** totaled 3.78 billion pounds in January 2000, down 1 percent from the 3.83 billion pounds produced in January 1999. **Beef production**, at 2.18 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, down 1 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,229 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 17.0 million pounds, 2 percent below January a year ago and equal to the previous record low for January set in 1998. Calf slaughter totaled 93 thousand head, down 12 percent from January 1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 311 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.57 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.14 million head, 5 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 7 percent from January 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 282 thousand head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from January a year ago.

## U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2000 were greater than year earlier levels for butter and chicken. January 2000 stocks of chicken, at 800 million pounds, broke the previous record January high of 717 million pounds set in 1999. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were 3 percent above December 1999, but were 7 percent below January 1999. Frozen pork stocks were 7 percent above last month, but were 13 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies increased 9 percent from last month, but were 47 percent below the January 1999 stocks.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** were up 5 percent from last month and were 3 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down slightly from last month, but were 12 percent above January 1999. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 23 percent from last month, but were 14 percent below last year.

**Public cooler occupancy** was at 44 percent of capacity, down 6 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy at 61 percent was 4 percentage points below last year.

### Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Jan 31, 1999	Dec 31, 1999	Jan 31, 2000
1,000 Pounds			
<b>Total Frozen</b>			
Eggs .....	11,047	10,071	12,070
Chickens .....	716,751	803,359	799,927
Turkeys .....	363,841	254,251	312,165
Cherries, Tart			
RSP .....	108,846	116,364	105,433
Juice .....	3,348	2,029	1,721
Cherries, Sweet ..	15,103	12,853	12,427
Potatoes .....	1,219,650	1,165,389	1,130,090
Beef .....	301,095	314,162	307,571
Pork .....	510,315	415,378	442,943
Lamb & Mutton ...	10,452	8,740	10,377
<b>Total in Storage</b>			
Apples, Fresh ....	4,169,009	4,652,851	4,011,671
Butter .....	60,757	25,082	79,060
Cheese, Natural ..	622,437	621,261	669,157
American .....	452,205	457,990	481,082
Swiss .....	10,993	8,381	9,735
Other Natural ...	159,239	154,890	178,340

## 1999 Milk Production

**UTAH:** A total of 1.6 billion pounds of milk was produced during 1999, a 6.6 percent increase from 1998. Production per cow was 17,533 pounds compared with 16,811 pounds in 1998. The annual average number of milk cows on farms during 1999 was 92,000 head, 2,000 head more than the previous year.

There were 820 operations with milk cows in 1999 compared with 900 in 1998.

**UNITED STATES:** The annual production of milk during 1999 was 162.7 billion pounds, 3.4 percent above 1998. This was the third consecutive year of increased milk production and a new record high. Revisions to 1998 production decreased the annual total by less than 0.1 percent. Revised 1999 production was also down by less than 0.1 percent from last months publication. **Production per cow** in the U.S. averaged 17,771 pounds for 1999, 582 pounds above 1998. Average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 20 percent since 1990. **The average number of milk cows on farms** during 1999 was 9.16 million head, down slightly from 1998. Average number of milk cows was revised down 4,000 head for 1998 and 2,000 head for 1999 from the previous estimate.

## U.S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.15 billion during January 2000, up 2 percent from the 6.98 billion produced in 1999. Production included 6.06 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2000 averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during January 1999. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up 1 percent from 2,165 eggs in January 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2000 totaled 329 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 329 million layers consisted of 270 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2000, averaged 69.0 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.1 a year ago.

### Layers & Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, United States, January, 1999-00

Item	1999 <sup>1/</sup>	2000 <sup>2/</sup>	2000 as % of 1999
<b>Layers during January (Thousand)</b>			
All Layers	322,326	328,578	102
Table Egg Type	263,381	270,022	103
Hatching Egg Type	58,945	58,556	99
<b>Eggs per 100 Layers during January (Number)</b>			
All Layers	2,165	2,176	101
Table Egg Type	2,239	2,246	100
Hatching Egg Type	1,834	1,855	101
<b>Eggs produced during January (Million)</b>			
All Layers	6,979	7,150	102
Table Egg Type	5,898	6,064	103
Hatching Egg Type	1,081	1,086	100

<sup>1/</sup> Revised. <sup>2/</sup> Preliminary

## Agricultural Prices

**UTAH:** Crop prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-February were down for barley and alfalfa hay but up for other hay.

Barley, at \$1.99 per bushel, was down six cents from the previous month's price but six cents higher than February 1999. Baled alfalfa hay was \$74.00 per ton, a \$1.00 decrease from last month and a \$2.00 decrease from last year. Other hay, at \$39.00 per ton, was \$4.00 higher than last month but \$8.00 lower than February 1999.

The lamb price for January 2000 was \$84.00 per cwt, up \$2.00 from December 1999, and up \$21.00 from February of last year. The January 2000 sheep price at \$29.00, was the same as December 1999 and up \$2.00 from February of last year.

**UNITED STATES:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 92 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.2 percent) from the January index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These marketing changes accounted for most of the February index increase. Higher prices for hogs, eggs, corn, and soybeans offset price decreases for lettuce, broilers, milk, and apples.

Compared with February 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1999 for milk, lettuce, oranges, and cotton more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, calves, and apples.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000 <sup>1/</sup>	Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000 <sup>1/</sup>
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	63.00	84.00	<u>2/</u>	67.20	70.90	<u>2/</u>
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	27.00	29.00	<u>2/</u>	30.20	36.80	<u>2/</u>
<b>Crops</b>							
Barley	Dol/Bu	1.93	2.05	1.99	1.90	2.05	2.14
Alfalfa Hay, Baled <u>6/</u>	Dol/Ton	76.00	75.00	74.00	83.70	74.10	77.40
Other Hay, Baled <u>6/</u>	Dol/Ton	47.00	35.00	39.00	70.10	65.90	66.70

<sup>1/</sup> Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month, except for milk. Prices for milk are an estimate for the full month. <sup>2/</sup> February data will be published next month. <sup>3/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

## Honey Production

**UTAH:** Honey production in 1999 from producers with five or more colonies was 1.17 million pounds. This was 33 percent below the total production for 1998. The total number of colonies, at 26,000, was down 4,000 from the previous year. The average yield per colony was 45 pounds, 13 pounds below the level of 1998. Stocks of honey on hand December 15 totaled 433,000 pounds, 37 percent of production. The average price of 68 cents per pound was up 3 cents from the 1998 price. The 1999 honey crop is valued at \$796,000, down 30 percent from the previous year.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 1999 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. Yield per colony averaged

76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Producer honey stocks were 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

### Honey Production, 1999 <sup>1/</sup>

	Utah	United States
No. Colonies (000)	26	2,688
Yield per Colony (Lbs)	45	76.3
Production (000 Lbs)	1,170	205,228
Stocks (000 Lbs) <u>2/</u>	433	79,361
Avg. Price/Lb (cents) <u>3/</u>	68	59.9
Value Production (\$1,000)	796	125,422

<sup>1/</sup> For producers with 5 or more colonies. <sup>2/</sup> Stocks held by producers December 15, 1999. Does not include stocks under loan. <sup>3/</sup> U.S. price weighted by survey expanded sales. Total may not add due to rounding.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.58 million head on February 1, 2000. The inventory was 10 percent above February 1, 1999 and 7 percent above February 1, 1998. **Placements** in feedlots during January totaled 2.23 million, 15 percent above 1999 and 29 percent above 1998. Net placements were 2.16 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less

than 600 pounds were 494,000, 600-699 pounds were 696,000, 700-799 pounds were 654,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 382,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during January totaled 2.05 million, 1 percent above 1999 and 3 percent above 1998. **Other disappearance** totaled 69,000 during January, 1 percent below 1999 and 30 percent below 1998.

### Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, United States, February 1, 1998-2000

Item	Number			2000 as Percent of	
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999
	..... 1,000 Head .....			..... Percent .....	
On Feed Jan 1 <u>1/</u> .....	11,155	10,667	*11,475	103	108
Placed on Feed during Jan .....	1,726	*1,933	2,226	129	115
Fed Cattle Marketed during Jan .....	1,988	2,021	2,048	103	101
Other Disappearance during Jan <u>2/</u> .....	99	70	69	70	99
On Feed Feb 1 <u>1/</u> .....	10,794	*10,509	11,584	107	110

\*Revised. 1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.